



Statement of Esta Soler,
President and Founder, Futures Without Violence
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Geeta Rao Gupta an ‘Inspired Choice’ for U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues

“We applaud U.S. Senate confirmation of Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta, President Biden’s nominee to serve as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues at the Department of State. The former executive director of the 3D Program for Girls and Women at the UN Foundation, Gupta is a powerful champion of gender equity and women’s economic security, and an inspired choice for this important role. We thank Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Tim Kaine (D-VA), who all played a critical role in Ambassador Gupta’s confirmation.

The Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues is the highest-ranking official tasked with advancing gender equality as a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. She leads the State Department’s Office of Global Women’s Issues, which works to ensure the rights of women and girls are integrated into U.S. foreign policy.

The imperative to empower women and girls and advance gender equity and equality has never been more urgent. In Iran, women and girls, supported by men and boys, are demanding an end to oppressive laws and fighting to advance their basic liberties and rights. In Afghanistan, schools have once again closed to girls and women have been pushed back to the margins of society. Humanitarian crises in Ukraine and elsewhere have elevated the risk of conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls while disrupting and limiting their access to services. And the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global food crisis have undermined the economic security of families and communities worldwide. Now more than ever, we need strong leadership to advance the State Department’s work to empower women and girls in diplomacy, partnerships, and programs. Ambassador Gupta is uniquely qualified for that role.”

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ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:

For more than 35 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. More information is available at www.futureswithoutviolence.org.